

COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/index.html>

MINUTES

September 6, 2007

This meeting was held in conjunction with the California Mental Health Policy Forum. The COMIO meeting location was at the Red Hen Restaurant, 4175 Solano Avenue. Napa, California.

COMIO Council Members in attendance:

Council Members

Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson
Dave Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Retired), Humboldt County
Wendy Lindley, Judge, Orange County Superior Court
Duane E. McWaine, M.D., Medical Director, DHCMHC, Los Angeles
David Meyer, J.D., USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science
Jo Robinson, M.F.T., Assistant Director, Programs, San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services
James W. Sweeney, J.D., Principal, James W. Sweeney & Associates
Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Assistant Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff

Support Staff

Allan Lammers, Executive Officer
Bruce Slavin, Counsel to COMIO

Interested Parties

Karen Kalk, CalMEND
Robert Storms, CDCR, Parole
Richard Conklin, San Diego Sheriff's Department
Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association
Robin Dezember, CDCR (representing Chairperson James E. Tilton)
Joseph A. Partansky, Advocate for the Frail, Elderly, and Person with Disabilities, Concord
Karen Moen, Collaborative Justice Project, Administrative Office of the Courts
Kele Griffiths, Johnson & Johnson
Karen MacDonald, AstraZeneca
Kit Wall, Eli Lilly & Company
J.J. Ponath, PhD., DAPO – Region II
Chris Creiger, Sharper Future
Barry Handon, MD., DHCS
Kate Bell, Capitol Advocacy

Absent:

Council Member James E. Tilton, Chairperson was able to attend the Policy Forum, however, a scheduling conflict did not permit him to arrive in time for the COMIO meeting. Steven W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:10. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Opening Comments/Previous Meeting Minutes

Dr. Mayberg, Vice-Chairperson, welcomed all in attendance; introductions were made. Allan Lammers, Executive Officer, briefly reviewed the agenda, as well as the meeting materials that were distributed to Council Members. There were no changes noted to the minutes of July 19, 2007. Duane McWaine moved and James Sweeney seconded the motion to approve the minutes – Passed.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Legislation Discussion

Vice-Chairperson Mayberg noted that 2034 was not funded and that agencies face at least \$100 million in future cuts - \$6 million for DMH and \$40 million for CDCR. A variety of other legislatively related issues were addressed including the growing doubt that SB851 will be funded as it is modified. It was noted that AB900 could provide capital outlay for 16,000 beds infill housing with full programming assessments for inmates needs. Program evaluation is part of AB900 and will provide reentry through funded sheriff's facilities that would include

better job training than at present. An important factor to make this all work is the retraining of parole commissioners to deal with reentry options.

The problem is huge as the Council reviewed the incarcerated population in State facilities today. In 1966 both DMH and Corrections had a population in their respective institutions of 25,000. Today CDCR has 173,000 and DMH has 4,800. Breakdown of DMH population is:

- 1,050 incompetent to stand trial
- 1,200 mentally disordered offenders who are violent and unsafe to release
- 1,200 N.G.R.I.
- 680 sexual violent predators
- 100-500 experiencing psychotic episodes in prison

The recidivism rate is 7% for CONREP and 70% for CDCR.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Competency to stand trial - Proposed checklist

Tabled to next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Introducing CalMEND: A Quality Improvement Project to Promote Wellness and Recovery for Individuals with Mental Illness

A presentation introducing CalMEND and how it has potential to interface with correctional programs was offered to the Council by Karen Kalk and Dr. Barry Herndon. This is seen as a blueprint to re-design current care settings by integrating recovery, quality of care and pharmacotherapy. CalMEND's overall vision is that individuals of all ages will receive support that optimizes their best development and increases their resiliency and recovery from mental illness...Council members requested periodic updates as the project progresses.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Laura's Law

It was reported that the sunset on Laura's law has been extended.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Survey Letter to Counties/Best Practices

Announcement brochures about COMIO's new program to identify Best Practices are being released at this conference. A submission deadline is set for November 9, 2007 with winners being announced in conjunction with the California Forensic Mental Health Association in March.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Endorsement of AB639 (Hancock) Discussion

Council Member Sweeney requested that COMIO support the efforts of Representative Hancock to set up a system of pre-release identifications cards by DMV for institutionalized adults and juveniles. Discussion noted that juveniles have now been removed from the proposed legislation. On a 5-0 vote with three abstentions, it was agreed to submit a letter of support to Representative Hancock and include the statement that we would support the expansion of this effort to juveniles in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Status and Update on MIOCR Projects

No report

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Old Business

None

AGENDA ITEM 10 – New Business

Council Member Jo Robinson anticipates the Wiggins bill to pass but she expressed concern that there are really no set standards to follow in terms of its implementation. She requested further discussion about this in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Announcements

None

ADENDA ITEM 12 - Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 P.M. was made by Dr. McWaine and seconded by Judge Lindley – Passed.

MINUTES RECORDED AND SUBMITTED BY:

Allan Lammers,
COMIO Executive Officer